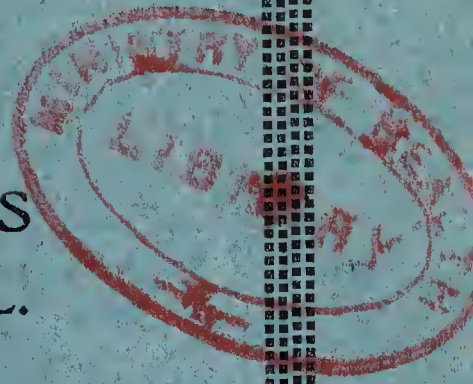


NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires

Rural District

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

General Statistics.

Area—The area of the District is 47,011 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—4,556.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—1442.

Rateable Value—£17,607.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£79.

Social Conditions.

The industries in the district are as in previous years. Agriculture is the principal industry, salmon fishing on the Tweed and along the coast, and coal mining at Scremerston.

The fishers had a successful year, and there has been little unemployment at the colliery. The number of farm workers still tends to decrease, and as the farm workers' houses in the district become re-conditioned, the number of workers' houses tends to decrease also.

Holy Island continues to attract summer visitors, and the Tweed attracts rod fishers to the villages of Horncliffe, Norham, and Cornhill.

Many housing inspections have been carried out in different parts of the district, and these are enumerated in the Sanitary Inspectors' report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live births—Legitimate	40	20	20	} Birth rate per 1000 population—9.21
Illegitimate	2	2	0	
Still births	1	1	—	} Rate per 1000 births—23.8
Deaths	60	34	26	
				} Rate per 1000 population—13.16
Deaths from puerperal causes—				
Puerperal sepsis	...		0	Rate per 1000 births
Other puerperal causes	...		0	
Total	...	...	0	0
Death rate of infants under 1 year—				
All infants, per 1000 live births—0				
Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births—0				
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births—0				
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—7				
,, Measles—0				
,, Whooping Cough—0				
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—0				
The live births show a decrease of 16 on 1937, and the deaths a decrease of 2.				

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Part time Medical Officer of Health—

Herbert F. Park, M.B., CH.B., Norham.

Part time Sanitary Inspector—J. Romans Lake, East Ord.

Vaccination Officers—

Norhamshire—H. F. Park, M.B., CH.B., Norham.

Islandshire—J. Elliott, L.R.C.S.E., Lowick.

Laboratory Facilities—The County Laboratory,
at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.—By arrangement with Berwick Town Council a modern ambulance can be provided for all accident or infectious cases in the area. There are also private ambulances available. These arrangements are quite adequate.

Nursing in the Home.—Nurses employed by the County Nursing Association continue to render efficient service.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—None in the area.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—There have been no change in the hospital services in the district, and provision continues to be adequate. Infectious cases are isolated at the Berwick Town Hospital. There is a smallpox hospital in the area—situated at Oxford, Scremerston—but there has been no occasion to open it during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—There have been no complaints of contamination of water supplies. In times of drought there has been a definite shortage at Norham and Horncliffe. The new supply of water at Thornton, which supplies the new Council houses at Shoresdean, and which is of excellent quality, is being extended by pipe lines to Norham and Horncliffe. This scheme should be all complete and in operation early in 1939, and will settle the long-standing water question in these two villages and vicinity.

There are one or two places in the district where improvement in water supply are necessary. At Castle Heaton certain of the residents use water obtained from the Till, and this is not of high quality.

The question of water on Holy Island is a big one—along with that of sewerage. The matter has been before the Council for some considerable time, and this year they have had the advice of expert engineers.

The cost of a suitable scheme is so great a burden that it will be quite impossible for the Council to handle it without substantial assistance. This is at present being sought.

A report on samples of drinking water taken is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The building of new Council houses at Norham has necessitated the existing sewerage being extended to serve that part of the village. A scheme put forward to afford the same facility to the east end of the village was not approved by the Ministry of Health. The difficulty is the cost.

At Horncliffe the Council are building new houses, which will be served by the existing sewage arrangements.

Holy Island sewerage is being considered along with the water question, and is an urgent matter on the Island.

At Scremerston the agreement of the Ministry is being sought on the question of sewage for the new Council houses, and the matter is for the time being holding up the building progress there.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no industries in the district to cause pollution.

Closet Accommodation.—The advent of a piped water supply to Horncliffe will enable many of the householders to convert to the water carriage system. In Norham many of the houses are already converted, but owing to the failure to get approval of the scheme they are still unable to connect up. Dry closets are therefore still in use in many of the houses, and water carried from the public pant.

Public Cleansing.—A scavenging system exists at Norham.

Camping Licences — Swimming Baths. — (See Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Schools, Housing, etc.—These are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's report. Many inspections and reports have been made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—There has been no necessity for any action under this heading.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are 2 slaughterhouses in the area, both in Norham. These have been visited and found satisfactory.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease, but there have been quite a number of cases of Scarlet Fever scattered throughout the area. This was of a very mild type.

One case of Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid B) was notified in Holy Island. This is the same type as a known carrier on the Island, although no definite contact could be traced. All possible steps have been taken in the case of the carrier, and the Ministry of Health have advised us that nothing further could, or should, be done.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year :

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox ...	0	0	...
Scarlet Fever ...	27	11	...
Diphtheria ...	0	0	...
Enteric (Paratyph. B)	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	...
Pneumonia ...	3	0	...
Erysipelas ...	1	0	...

Prevention of Blindness.—No separate action has been taken under this heading, as the County scheme deals completely with it.

Tuberculosis.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>NEW CASES.</i>				<i>DEATHS.</i>			
	<i>Pulmon.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmon.</i>		<i>Pulmon.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmon.</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...

One case of Miliary Tuberculosis was unnotified, the patient having died immediately diagnosis was made.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Herbert. *Y. Park*
n.a.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, for the Year 1938.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Visits of inspection have been made to the Council's district during the year. It has not been found necessary to serve any statutory notices, but informal notices have been issued regarding insanitary matters, and verbal instructions have been given to agents, owners of property, and responsible persons, and these notices and instructions have been well attended to.

Conditions of Dwellinghouses.—The conditions of dwelling-houses in the area have been receiving attention during the year. The defects in the older types of houses are dampness, insufficient light, want of ventilation, and the absence of proper food stores, and in some cases general dilapidations.

Housing Act, 1936.—During the year Clearance Orders have been confirmed in respect of 17 houses at Cornhill, 5 at New Harperidge, and 7 at Donaldson's Lodge.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.—During the year certificates of completion have been issued in regard to the following:—2 cottages at Briar Cottages, Scremerston; 1 cottage at River View, Norham; 3 cottages at Camphouses, Berwick; Bow Well Cottage, Norham; 1 cottage, The Square, Horncliffe; 2 cottages at Tower Cottages, Norham. Although considerable progress has been made in this district under these Acts, there are still many farm cottages which should receive the attention of the owners. The Medical Officer of Health has reported to the Council regarding these cottages, and in the majority of cases the owners are submitting proposals to the Council with a view to having the cottages brought up to the standard required by the Acts.

Plans.—Plans for the erection of new houses and other buildings, and plans for improvements to property, have been submitted to and approved by the Council. These include the following:—

New Buildings.—Bungalow at Donaldson's Lodge, Garage at Cheswick, Store at W. Allerdean, Bungalow, Main Road, Greenhouse at East Ord, Byre at New Oxford Farm, Garage at Fenwick Schoolhouse, Garage at Scremerston Schoolhouse, House at Buckton.

Improvements to Property.—House and Shop—Norham, River View—Horncliffe, Tower Cottage—Norham, Grindon Corner, Pentland Cottage—Norham, Wilson's Property—Norham, Woodside Cottage—Norham, Middle Ord Farm Cottages, Cairnbank—Horncliffe, Iron Rails Hotel—Holy Island, Campfield Farm House, Britannia House—Holy Island.

Water Supplies.—*Thornton Water.*—The source of this supply is from Thornton Spring, which was acquired by the Council in 1936, when collecting tanks were constructed, a new engine house erected, and a 10 H.P. Ruston-Hornsby engine and pump installed. An elevated tank was erected at Shoreswood Hall, and the water pumped up in a 3 inch rising main. The water gravitates from this elevated tank to the Council's housing site at Shoresdean.

This scheme has been further developed, and plans, specifications, and calculations for design have been submitted to and approved of by the Ministry of Health.

Under the enlarged scheme a gravitation water supply to the villages of Norham and Horncliffe is nearing completion, and a domestic water supply for the area stretching from Shoreswood Hall to these villages will be available at an early date.

A new engine house has been constructed at Thornton, and another 10 H.P. Ruston-Hornsby engine and pump installed. The water is to be pumped to a new reservoir situated at Shoreswood Hall on a site acquired by this Council. This reservoir has a capacity of 45,000 gallons, which is ample for a three days' supply in the driest weather. The distributing water mains will be of 3in. and 4in. diameter with 2in. water mains to supply the various new housing sites under the jurisdiction of the Council. Fire hydrants will be fixed on all water mains. The water is of good quality and ample quantity, and is under the sole ownership of the Local Authority.

Holy Island.—The main source of supply is from the Popple Well. This well is situated close to the roadside on the lowest part of the Island. All the water used has to be carried or carted. This supply has never failed.

The Council have had under consideration the sanitary conditions existing on Holy Island, including the present water supply. Messrs D. Balfour & Sons, Civil Engineers, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, have submitted a report thereon, which will in due course be considered by this Council.

Fenwick.—This village of 20 houses is supplied by gravitation from a spring which rises in Kyloe Woods. During the seasons when there is an average rain fall it meets the requirements of the users, but in very dry periods the spring fails and economy has to be practised by the householders. This supply is under the sole ownership of the Local Authority.

Cornhill.—The water supply to Cornhill Village and the surrounding areas is privately owned. The water is obtained from a spring, and is pumped up by water wheel and engine to a reservoir and gravitates by a 2in. water main to the village. The water is of good quality and ample quantity.

East Ord.—The gravitation water supply laid down two years ago for East Ord Village has been taken full advantage of. This supply is of ample quantity and good quality. A new 2in. water main has been extended to the Council's No. 2 housing site to supply 10 houses in the course of erection. This supply is under the sole ownership of the Local Authority.

Middle Ord.—The water supply on Middle Ord has been improved by sinking a borehole, &c., by the owner.

There has been no marked shortage of water in other parts of the District during the year.

The following is the result of bacteriological examinations of two samples of water taken from the Popple Well, Holy Island, and tap in Fenwick Village :—

Popple Well, Holy Island :—

Number of colonies per ml. of water developing at 37 C—Nil.
22 C—7.

Probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of water—Nil.

Tap in Fenwick Village :—

Number of colonies per ml. of water developing at 37 C—Nil.
22 C—51.

Probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of water—Nil.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no public works in the area, and consequently no river pollution from these sources.

Sewerage and Drainage.—*Norham.*—At the west end of Norham Village a new 6in. sanitary pipe has been laid at an improved gradient. This pipe replaces an old 6in. field pipe.

Horncliffe.—At Tweed Row, Horncliffe, the 6in. sewer has been extended to take in the sewage from re-modelled buildings.

Holy Island.—The Council have had under consideration the sanitary conditions existing on Holy Island, including the present system of drainage, and the main sewer outfall to the bay. Messrs D. Balfour & Sons, Civil Engineers, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, have submitted a report upon these matters, which will in due course be considered by the Council.

Schools.—The Hampshire privy system is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available, with the exception of one. Where there is no gravitation supply the water is carried from a pump or spring forming a supply for the other users.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious disease occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the infected areas.

Dairies and Cowsheds (Milk Supply).—There are 30 registered cowkeepers in the District, and 221 cows kept. During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected, and instructions given to ensure cleanliness by sweeping and flushing channels, brushing down and lime washing walls. A new and up to date cow byre has been erected at High Oxford.

Factories and Workshops.—These number 34, and have all been well kept.

Camping Sites.—There are two privately owned camping sites in the District—one at Haggerston and the other at Cocklawburn. These sites are not extensively used, and are not licensed.

Disinfestation.—There was no occasion to disinfestate for the eradication of bed bugs.

Slaughterhouses.—There are two slaughterhouses situated in Norham-on-Tweed, one registered and one unregistered. These have been visited and found to be well kept. The humane killer is in use in both.

East Ord,
Berwick-upon-Tweed,
June, 1939.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Romanus Laidy
Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION of FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, & WORKPLACES

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted.</i>
Factories with mechanical power ...	...	...	..
Factories without mechanical power	34	...	...
Other premises under the Act ...	...	...	...
	34	0	0

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

	<i>After Letter or Interview</i>	<i>After Informal Notice</i>	<i>After Statutory Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Sanitary Conveniences—</i>				
Privies abolished ...	12	...	...	12
„ repaired ...	3	...	...	3
Privy ashpits abolished ...	12	...	...	12
„ roofed or repaired ...	...	...	...	...
Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	...	...
Water-closets provided ...	9	...	...	9
„ repaired ...	2	...	...	2
Sanitary bins provided ...	...	...	...	...
„ renewed ...	...	...	...	...
<i>Drainage—</i>				
New drains constructed ...	11	...	...	11
Drains repaired or reconstructed	4	...	...	4
Additional gullies provided	7	...	...	7
Old gullies replaced ...	...	...	...	...
Scullery sinks provided ...	6	...	...	6
„ waste pipes repaired	5	...	...	5
„ „ „ trapped	4	...	...	4
Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
<i>Water Supply—</i>				
Sources closed or discontinued—	No. of houses affected—			
New service provided—0	No. of houses affected—0			

FOOD INSPECTION.

<i>Surrendered.</i>	<i>Seized.</i>	<i>Legal proceedings, and result</i>
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	30
Approximate number of cows kept ...	221

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Houses erected during the year—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority
(b) By other Bodies or persons

— — — — —

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	55
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					102
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	18
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	37

2. Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notices—

(1)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	—
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... —

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... —

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(c) Proceedings under secs 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... —

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

4. No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ... 26

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

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